



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

## TENNESSEE FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCMENT ACADEMY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **STATE TRAINING ACADEMY FLAGS FLY AT HALF MAST**

#### **TENNESSEE FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

BELL BUCKLE, TN. – Flags will be flown at half-mast at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in honor of a Memphis, TN firefighter who died while responding to a call.

Driver David O'Conner, 38 and nine-year veteran of the department, collapsed behind the wheel of a fire engine on a routine alarm call, sending the fire engine onto the sidewalk. Fellow firefighters were able to stop the engine but were un-able to revive O'Conner. He was pronounced dead at Methodist University Hospital.

"The firefighter brotherhood is a very close-nit organization," states Roger Hawks, Academy Executive Director. "Anytime we lose a firefighter, especially one from our home state, the loss is deeply felt by all and we are reminded of the sacrifice and dedication of all emergency first responders."

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time. His family requests that any donations be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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